

2026 -- H 7706

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LC004693
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

JOINT RESOLUTION

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$500,000 TO THE UNITED WAY OF RHODE ISLAND
FOR THE 2-1-1 HUMAN SERVICES HOTLINE

Introduced By: Representatives Shallcross Smith, Hull, Sanchez, Potter, Voas, Kazarian,
Casimiro, Diaz, Fellela, and Fogarty

Date Introduced: February 11, 2026

Referred To: House Finance

1 WHEREAS, Since 2007, the United Way of Rhode Island has operated and maintained
2 2-1-1 as a free and confidential service for all Rhode Islanders, one that is available 24 hours a
3 day, every day, 365 days per year, in nearly 200 languages and dialects that provides a direct
4 human connection to solve life's most pressing problems; and

5 WHEREAS, By call, text or chat 2-1-1, Rhode Islanders find assistance on everything
6 from housing to child care to healthcare services and food and shelter, as well as help with tax
7 preparation and utilities; and

8 WHEREAS, Insights gained from 2-1-1 help multiple state departments by and through
9 the United Way of Rhode Island identify the changing needs of Rhode Islanders to better serve
10 our community; and

11 WHEREAS, The 2023-2024 United Way of Rhode Island Community Impact Report
12 stated that more than 190,000 requests for help were received by 2-1-1 with the majority focused
13 on requests relating to help, stability, and resources; and

14 WHEREAS, 2-1-1 plays a critical communications role during natural disasters or other
15 state crises; including floods and winter snow storms; and

16 WHEREAS, The community as a whole benefits from 2-1-1 because it helps people
17 connect with the information they need, when they need it most, and increases efficiency by
18 helping callers define their needs and identify multiple available services; now, therefore be it

19 RESOLVED, That there is hereby appropriated to the United Way, a Rhode Island

1 domestic nonprofit corporation, the sum of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000), out of any
2 monies in the treasury not otherwise appropriated for fiscal year 2026-2027, to provide
3 operational support for the 2-1-1 system; and the state controller is hereby authorized and directed
4 to draw his orders upon the general treasurer for payment of said sum, or so much thereof as may
5 be from time required, upon receipt of properly authenticated vouchers.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

J O I N T R E S O L U T I O N

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$500,000 TO THE UNITED WAY OF RHODE ISLAND
FOR THE 2-1-1 HUMAN SERVICES HOTLINE

- 1 This resolution would authorize the appropriation of the sum of \$500,000 to the United
- 2 Way of Rhode Island to provide operational support for the 2-1-1 system.

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